

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00108 291624Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03  
INR-10 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03  
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 SS-15 /088 W  
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P 282255Z MAR 78  
FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1285  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL MONTREAL  
AMCONSUL TORONTO

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EO 11652: NA  
TAGS:ECON, PINT, CA  
SUBJ: QUEBEC REACTION TO TRUDEAU NEW YORK SPEECH

REF: OTTAWA 1466

1. OUR PRELIMINARY JUDGEMENT IS THAT TRUDEAU SCORED A SIGNIFICANT VICTORY WITH HIS NEW YORK SPEECH. PUBLIC REACTION HERE HAS FOLLOWED PARTISAN LINES. NONETHELESS, THERE IS MUCH PRELIMINARY EVIDENCE THAT THE AVERAGE QUEBECOIS HAS BEEN IMPRESSED BY CONTRAST BETWEEN FAVORABLE RECEPTION ACCORDED TRUDEAU AND THAT GIVEN LEVESQUE BY THE SAME AUDIENCE. WITH HARSH ECONOMIC REALITIES IN EVERYONE'S MIND, THE QUALITY OF THE RECEPTION ACCORDED BY THE WORLD'S MOST IMPORTANT CONCENTRATION OF BANKERS IS LIKELY HTOWEIGH HEAVILY. CONTENT OF TRUDEAU'S SPEECH IS MUCH LESS IMPORTANT THAN ITS RECEPTION, TO NERVOUS QUEBECOIS WHO ARE ALREADY SUFFERING FROM SERIOUS RECESSION AND YET ARE BEING ASKED TO EMBARK ON A GRAET NATIONAL ADVENTURE INTO UNCHARTED WATERS.

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PAGE 02 QUEBEC 00108 291624Z

2. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HERE TENDED TO SHRUG OFF THE SPEECH AS A "CAN'T LOSE" MESSAGE TO AN AUDIENCE ANXIOUS FOR REASSURANCE. IN RADIO COMMENTARY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SPEECH INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS MINISTER CLAUDE MORIN DISMISSED THE SPEECH AS DEVOID OF ANY SIGNIFICANT CONTENT AS ANY APPEAL TO MOTHERHOOD AND APPLE PIE. HE ADDED THAT RENE LEVESQUE HAD AT LEAST BEEN STIMULATING AND CONTROVERSIAL IN HIS SPEECH TO THE SAME

FORUM FOURTEEN MONTHS BEFORE, WHILE TRUDEAU WAS SIMPLY TELLING  
A FRIENDLY AUDIENCE EXACTLY WHAT IT WANTED TO HEAR. MORIN'S DEPUTY,  
RICHARD POULIOT, WHO OVERSEES QUEBEC'S RELATIONS  
WITH THE US, TOLD CONOFF SOMEWHAT WISHFULLY THAT TRUDEAU'S RECEPTION

IN NEW YORK HAD BEEN, IN HIS VIEW, "ONLY LUKE-WARM".

3. THE SPEECH WAS TELEVISED LIVE BY FRENCH-LANGUAGE RADIO-  
CANADA, CAUSING POSTPONEMENT FOR ONE HOUR OF THE LAST INSTALL-  
MENT OF ITS SUPER-POPULAR SERIES ON FORMER QUEBEC PM DUPLESSIS.  
THERE WAS NONE OF THE CUSTOMARY INSTANT ANALYSIS AFTER THE SPEECH  
SINCE THE NETWORK CUT BACK HASTILY TO THE DUPLESSIS SHOW,  
WHICH HAS BEEN AN OBLIGATORY WEDNESDAY NIGHT RITUAL FOR VIRTUALLY

ALL QUEBECOIS FOR THE PAST SEVEN WEEKS. POULIOT, FOR ONE, MADE MUCH  
OF THE FACT THAT RADIO-CANADA'S TELEPHONE SWITCHBOARD WAS  
SUPPOSEDLY ABUZZ WITH DEMANDS FROM INDIGNANT VIEWERS TO "GET  
TRUDEAU OFF THE AIR AND GET BACK TO DUPLESSIS."

4. SPEECH GOT EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN QUEBEC'S TRUNCATED PRESS  
(THE STRIKE CONTINUES AT MONTREAL'S LA PRESSE AND MONTREAL-MATIN,  
AND QUEBEC CITY'S LE SOLEIL). THE MONTREAL STAR COMPARED THE  
SPEECH TO "A OOD AFTER-DINNER CIGAR -- LONG, MELLOW, AND SOOTHING."  
LE DEVOIR'S MICHEL ROYNOTED THAT TRUDEAU HAD SUCCEEDED IN REASSURING  
AMERICAN FINANCIAL LEADERS BY PROJECTING THE "QUIETLY REASSURIN"  
IMAGE OF A WORLD STATESMAN. IN A FEW PHRASES, ROY SAID,  
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PAGE 03 QUEBEC 00108 291624Z

TRUDEAU DISSIPATED THE DARK CLOUDS THAT AMERICANS HAD BEEN

PERCEIVING OVER CANADA BECAUSE OF THE "RATHER DRAMATIC"  
TREATMENT THE AMERICAN PRESS HAS BEEN GIVING THE QUEBEC  
ISSUE.  
MCNAMARA

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 28 mar 1978  
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